(d) The cadre was constituted only in September, 1983. The necessity for its review at this stage will be examined by Government.

Losses in Darjeeling Tea Estates due to G.N.L.F. Movement

290. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Darjeeling tea estates have suffered losses due to G.N.L.F. movement in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to subsidise the losses of Darjeeling tea estates in order to give them a fresh lease of life recoup the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the period 20th June, 1987 to 29th June, 1987 when there was a complete bandh in Darjeeling, due to stoppage of work in Tea Gardens, production to the tune of approximately 600 tons is reported to have been lost.

(c) All the Tea Estates have resumed production immediately after the calling off the bandh. At present, there is no proposal for providing subsidy.

Fire incidents in Delhi

291. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of major fire incidents in Delhi during the period from 1st January, 1986 to 30 June, 1987;

(b) what is the number of persons killed/injured in these fires;

(c) what were the causes of each such fire incident;

(d) what action has been taken against the building owners and unauthorised traders where such fire incidents took place;

(e) whether any survey has been conducted of the high rise buildings in Delhi; and

(f) if so, how many buildings have been found lacking in fire safety measures and what action has been taken against the building owners to avoid such incidents of fire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) During this period, there was one incident of major fire, 7 incidents of serious fire and 24 incidents of medium fire.

(b) (i) killed—43.

(ii) Injured—133.

(c) The causes of fire were electric short circuit, coming in touch with naked flame, careless dropping of burning objects etc.

(d) In the major incident of fire at Siddhartha Inter-Continental Hotel, a criminal case has been filed in the court on the 2nd March, 1987 against the management of the hotel.

(e) and (f) On the basis of survey conducted, legal notices have since been issued to the owners/occupiers of 194 high-rise buildings to provide the fire safety and fire fighting measures, as pointed out. They have been asked to carry out the directions before 30th September, 1987.

Illegal arms factory unearthed in Delhi

292. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an illegal arms factory engaged in manufacturing country-made weapons has been unearthed in the second week of July, 1987 in the trans-Yamuna area in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the particulars of persons arrested for manufacturing, selling and purchasing such country-made weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On receipt of information a police party from Police Station Vivek Vihar raided a jhuggi in New Sanjay Amar Colony and found one person busy manufacturing weapons. The police recovered one finished weapon, three semi-finished weapons, arms manufacturing equipment, etc.

The interrogation of the accused person has led to the arrest of three others who had purchased arms from him.

Wage Board for Mini Cement Plants

293. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Wage Board for the employees working in the mini cement plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the Wage Board is expected to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

UN sponsored study on Deforestation

294. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent UN sponsored study according to which 27 million acres of forests are being destroyed annually;

(b) if so, the acreage of forests destroyed annually in India; and

(c) what steps are being taken to check deforestation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to studies of Satellite imagery by the National Remote Sensing Agency, the annual rate of deforestation in India during 1972—75 to 1980—82 was approximately 1.3 million hectares per annum.

(c) the following steps have been taken by the Government to check deforestation:—

1. Enactment and enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. Guidelines have been issued to the state governments to:—

(i) avoid clearfelling of natural forests for rajsing plantations as far as possible. Where such felling are unavoidable due to restorations of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 ha. in the hills and 20 ha. in the plains. In no case good natural forests should be clearfelled in prefernce to poorly stocked natural forests.

(ii) ban all fellings above an altitude of 1000 meters atleast for some years.

(iii) to earmark 4 per cent of the geographical area as portec-